

N A N T I C A R U R A L D I S T R I C T

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

M e d i c a l O f f i c e r o f H e a l t h

for the

Y E A R

1 9 4 5

by

O. H. BLACKLAY, M.D., F.R.C.S. Edin.

Medical Officer of Health

To which is Appended the REPORT of

JOHN S. TOWNLEY

S a n i t a r y I n s p e c t o r

and

C l e a n s i n g S u p e r i n t e n d e n t

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# NANTWICH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

## Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area (in acres)	100,823
Population	25,040
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1945) according to the rate books.	7,641
Rateable Value (1st April, 1945)	£132,712
Sum represented by a penny rate	£554.16s.2d.

### Sanitary Staff

Medical Officer: O.H.Blacklay, M.D., F.R.C.S. (Edin.) (part time).

Chief Sanitary Inspector: (full time). John S.Townley.

First Additional Sanitary Inspector: (full time). John Craven.  
(returned from H.M.Forces, 10/12/45.)

Second Additional Sanitary Inspector: (full time). T.H.Powell.

Sanitary Engineer and Surveyor: (full time). H.Crabtree.

### Social Conditions

The social conditions remain unaltered. The residents of the districts surrounding Crewe and Nantwich are employed in these towns, and in the remaining part the population find employment in agriculture, which is the chief industry of the District. Industries allied with agriculture, in the form of milk and milk products factories are situated in the area. There is one clothing factory which employs female labour. There is no unemployment in the area.

### Vital Statistics

	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>MALE</u>	<u>FEMALE</u>
LIVE BIRTHS : Legitimate	375	204	171
Illegitimate	32	19	13
Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population :		16.25	
STILL BIRTHS: ... ..	15	7	8
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still)births; ...		35.5	
DEATHS :	317	171	146
Death Rate per 1,000 of the resident population ... ..		12.6	
Deaths from Puerperal causes :			1
<u>Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:</u>			
All Infants per 1,000 live births ...		34.15	
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate births		34.66	
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births		31.2	
Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ...	44	20	24
Deaths from Measles(all ages) ...	-	-	-
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) ...	1	-	1
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) ..	1	-	1
Particulars of any unusual or excessive mortality during the year which has received or requires comment:	NONE		





Deaths: The total number of deaths of infants under one year of age (males and females) was ... .. 14

There have been no cases of sickness or invalidity which have been specially noteworthy in this area during the year. The conditions of occupation and environments of the population are healthy.

#### Immunisation against Diphtheria

Steady progress has been made under this heading and the position at the 31st December, 1945, was particularly satisfactory with respect to children attending schools in the area.

The returns from the Head Teachers concerned show that 91% of the children attending these Schools had been immunised and arrangements being in hand for the treatment of the remaining 9%.

As far as can be ascertained the position with respect to children under school age remained about the same, 50% being estimated as having been immunised against diphtheria.

There were no cases of diphtheria where immunisation had been carried out.

#### Laboratory Facilities.

There have been no changes or developments owing to the war, and the existing arrangements are as follows :-

Bacteriological specimens are examined at the Public Health Laboratory of the University of Manchester, and the Evans Biological Institute.

Samples of milk are examined at the Chester Royal Infirmary Laboratory.

Water samples are submitted to Messrs. Melling and Ardern, The County Analysts, Manchester.

#### Ambulance Facilities

In my opinion the ambulance service is adequate, the following four vehicles being available :-

1. Infectious Diseases - maintained by the Nantwich Joint Hospital Board.
2. Non-Infectious and Accident cases - maintained by Nantwich Urban and Rural District Councils jointly under agreement.
3. Non-Infectious and Accident cases - maintained by the British Red Cross (Haslington).
4. Civil Defence - One ambulance supplied by the Cheshire County Council.

#### Nursing Arrangements

Professional nursing in the homes of the people in the District is by the District Nurses, employed by voluntary Associations.

Nurses are stationed at Acton, Audlem, Bunbury, Doddington, Cholmondeley, Willaston, Worleston, Newhall, Stapeley, Shavington, and Haslington. These nurses act as Midwives in their respective districts. No special provision is made for the nursing of infectious cases in their own homes.





Nurses employed by the County Council are located in the Rural District; they exercise the duties of School Nurses and Health Visitors to cases of Tuberculosis.

#### Clinics and Treatment Centres

There is only one centre of this type in the district which is the Infant Welfare Centre at Haslington. The Infant Welfare Centres at Nantwich and Alsager are used by residents of this district living in the vicinity of these places.

A treatment centre for Venereal Disease is situated at 8 Hurdman Street, Crewe, where cases from the Rural Area can receive treatment.

#### Hospitals

There is a large Poor Law Hospital at Nantwich which serves the Rural and Urban Districts of Nantwich and the Borough of Crewe to which a temporary extension has been made providing accommodation for 250 beds for use in the event of an emergency.

There is an Isolation Hospital at Worleston which serves the Rural and Urban Districts of Nantwich. It is capable of accommodating twenty adults and thirty children, and of treating three diseases at the same time.

There is a Smallpox Hospital situated in the area, at Ravensmoor, which provides for the Nantwich Rural and Urban Districts.

There is a Cottage Hospital at Nantwich with accommodation for eighteen patients.

The Nantwich Rural District Council has been very concerned at the inadequacy of accommodation for maternity cases in the area and representations on this subject have been made to the Cheshire County Council.

There is an Agricultural and Industrial Colony for residential treatment of Tuberculosis cases capable of some work, situated in the district. This Institution is situated at Wrenbury Hall and was presented to the Cheshire County Council by the British Red Cross Society and St. John Ambulance Association.

#### Water Extensions carried out during the year.

The Congleton Rural District Council have contemplated their scheme for supplying a number of premises in the Parish of Elton with water from the Nantwich R.D.C. mains in Clay Lanes, Haslington.

The whole of the district is provided with a piped supply of pure water from three sources, viz. - Bearstone Pumping Station, Crewe Corporation's main, and Liverpool Corporation's mains. The supply is constant under adequate pressure and few complaints have been received as to the quantity or quality, during the year.


During the year bacteriological examinations of the water from all sources have been made and in all cases the results have proved highly satisfactory.

The analyses have shown no inclination to plumbo-solvency and no cases of contamination have been reported.

Only a very small number of dwelling houses are not supplied with water from the mains, and the number of dwellings supplied from a common standpipe is now reduced to a few isolated cases.

#### Water Extensions proposed for 1946

Although Tenders have been received and application has been



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made to the Ministry of Health for sanction to proceed with the work of erecting additional Pumping Plant and extending the service reservoir in connection with the Bearstone Scheme, no definite instructions have been received from the Ministry to proceed. The possibility of a Water Board being formed to cover the whole of Central and South Cheshire has been discussed by the Local Authorities concerned and it is contemplated that the Cheshire County Council will promote a Bill in parliament during the year to make this project a reality. It is probable that until this matter of forming a Water Board is decided the Ministry will withhold their sanction to any extensions to the Bearstone Scheme.

To endeavour to improve the supplies to the Marbury and Faddiley areas of the Rural District it is proposed to lay additional lengths of connecting mains. Short lengths of mains will also be laid in Chapel Lane, Baddiley, and at Oakhanger, Haslington, to give supplies to agricultural premises.

The Council have decided to re-lay the water main to Cholmondeston Hall as the existing pipe is badly incrustated and inadequate for giving the required supply.

Several lengths of water main will require to be laid in connection with the Council's Housing Schemes particularly at Southern Road, Willaston; Rope Lane, Shavington; and on the Acton and Weston Housing Sites.

#### Sewage and Drainage.

The Far Heath area of Haslington Parish has continued to give rise to serious complaints regarding the absence of satisfactory means for dealing with the drainage and although several lengths of drains have been laid as a temporary measure the position is far from what is necessary and desirable.

In connection with the proposed housing schemes, it will be necessary to construct new lengths of sewers and in the areas where no sewerage systems exist, small sewage disposal plants will be included in the estimate submitted to the Ministry for their approval.

The Council, in conjunction with the Councils of the Crewe Borough and the Nantwich Urban District are continuing their investigations into the possibilities of formulating a scheme for the most efficient and desirable treatment of sewage from the areas adjacent to these districts.

#### Housing.

No new houses have been erected within the Rural District during the year.

Sites have been purchased for the erection of Council Houses in the following parishes:- Acton (12), Shavington (14), Weston (6), Willaston (18), Worleston (6), and negotiations for the purchase of further sites are well advanced for Bunbury (24), Marbury (12).

During the year permission was given by the Government for the erection of 16 Swedish Timber Houses and these have been allotted to the parishes of Alpraham (4), Basford (2), Hankelow (4), and Weston (6). Good progress has been made in the erection of this new type of dwelling; but, owing to the shortage of labour and materials some delay has occurred but it is contemplated the houses will be completed by June, 1946.

The Council have not considered it advisable to include any Temporary Pre-fabricated type of houses in their Housing Programme, but with the likelihood of extended delays in obtaining bricks and other materials it may be that a reconsideration of the position will be called for.





The question of setting up a Housing Works Department under which houses may be erected by the "Direct Labour" method has been debated in the Council. A decision to experiment with a small scheme in connection with the four Swedish Timber Houses at Hankelow may be the forerunner of further Direct Labour Works.

#### Rivers and Streams Pollution

No action has been necessary by this Council under this heading.

#### Closet Accommodation

There are approximately 1,170 pail closets in the populous and closely built up areas of the district and a conversion scheme must be put into operation as soon as circumstances permit. In some parishes conversion could be proceeded with, without difficulty, but in others sewer and reconstruction and enlargement of sewage disposal facilities will be necessary.

#### Public Cleansing

The Council have adopted a scheme to cover the whole of the district under direct labour by motor transport to come into operation as soon as circumstances permit, and in certain parts of the district steps were taken during the year to implement this scheme by the introduction of motor transport which made it possible to extend the scheme to more outlying parts of the Rural district, the details of which are included in the report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

#### Sanitary Inspection of the Area

The report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent which deals with this matter is attached hereto.

#### Shops and Offices

Periodical inspections have been made and no infringements found.

#### Camping Sites

There are no camping sites in the district and when applications for licences under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936, for individual caravans on isolated sites are made, each case is considered by the Council on its own merits.

#### Swimming Baths

There are no public or private swimming baths or pools in this area.

#### Eradication of Bed Bugs

(1) Number of houses found to be infested :-

(a) Council Houses : NIL.  
(b) Other Houses : 3

Number of houses disinfested: 3

(2) Method employed when cases do arise is the use of liquid insecticide.

(3) Method employed to ensure belongings of tenant are free from vermin before removal to Council Houses : NIL.

(4) Disinfestation is carried out by Local Authority as required, by arrangement.

(5) Advice is given to occupiers of houses after disinfestation.





### Schools

The sanitary conditions at the schools is generally good, but there is room for considerable improvement in closet accommodation. All schools have a wholesome and adequate supply of mains water. Cooked meals and milk are provided daily at all schools in the area.

The following school was closed during the year :

Bunbury C.ofE. Girls' School - Fortnight for whooping cough and measles.

### Inspection and supervision of Food

There are 690 farms licenced under the Accredited Milk Scheme, and 41 producers of Tuberculin Tested Milk.

Frequent inspections are made of two pasteurisation plants in the District and samples are taken regularly and submitted for examination.

### Nutrition

No steps have been taken to increase knowledge on this subject by this Authority.

### Shell Fish

There are no shell fish beds or laying in the District.

### Infectious Disease

There were 81 cases of Scarlet Fever against 75 last year. There was only one case of Diphtheria, showing a decrease of three on last year.

69 Sputum specimens were examined for the presence of Tubercle Bacilli, and 7 were found to be positive.

24 cases of Tuberculosis were notified, of which 11 were pulmonary.

There were 2 cases of death from Tuberculosis which had not been previously notified.

### Tuberculosis

New cases and Mortality during 1945

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths				
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	
0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
1	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	
5	1	-	5	4	-	-	-	-	
15	1	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	
25	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	
35	1	1	-	1	3	-	-	-	
45	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
55	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	
65	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
& upwards									
	7	4	8	5	4	-	-	-	
	11		13		4		0		
TOTAL CASES		:		24	TOTAL DEATHS		:		4



Number of Cases remaining on the Tuberculosis Register at the end of the Year

Males		Females		TOTAL
<u>Pulmonary</u>	<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>	<u>Pulmonary</u>	<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>	
48	34	50	49	181

Prevention of Blindness

No action has been taken by this Authority.

Notifiable Disease

The following is a tabular statement of the cases of notifiable diseases which were reported during the year :-

	<u>Cases Notified</u>	<u>Removed to Hospital</u>	<u>Deaths</u>
Scarlet Fever,	81	75	NIL
Diphtheria,	1	1	NIL
Pneumonia,	14	NIL	6
Puerperal Pyrexia,	3	NIL	1
Erysipelas,	8	NIL	NIL
Whooping Cough,	55	NIL	1
Measles,	123	NIL	NIL

Cases of Infectious Disease showing the Incidence of cases in various Age Periods among Civilians.

	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Pneumonia	Puerperal Pyrexia	Measles	Erysipelas	Whooping Cough	S L A T O T
Under 1 year	-	-	1	-	2	-	6	9
1 year +	3	-	1	-	13	-	10	27
2 years +	8	-	-	-	10	-	5	23
3 years +	5	-	-	-	14	-	10	29
4 years +	5	-	-	-	16	-	6	27
5 years +	46	1	-	-	51	-	14	112
10 years +	6	-	1	-	14	-	2	23
15 years +	4	-	-	-	3	1	2	10
20 years +	4	-	1	3	-	1	-	9
35 years +	-	-	3	-	-	1	-	4
45 years +	-	-	5	-	-	3	-	8
65 years +	-	-	2	-	-	2	-	4
Totals all ages =	81	1	14	3	123	8	55	285

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Handwritten notes in the lower middle section, possibly a summary or conclusion.

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### Conclusion

It is a well recognized fact that the individual health of members of a community is greatly influenced by settled conditions of employment and amenities. The need for stabilizing agriculture, which is the principal industry of this rural area is therefore of prior importance. Whilst the problem is both an economic and a political one in its nature, it must be agreed that social conditions play a great part in the future of this vital industry.

Movements of population during the war years have made the country people more conscious of the amenities of town life and the first consideration of the Council should therefore be the provision of housing accommodation for agricultural workers on as high a standard as that of urban areas, together with an extension of amenities such as public cleansing, sewage disposal and electricity. These in any circumstances are vitally necessary from a standpoint of public health, and I would suggest that no effort should be spared by this Council in obtaining the introduction of these services as widely as possible into the truly rural parts of this area.

Whilst it does not come directly within the scope of health services it must be realised that the extension of public service transport facilities on a more frequent and comprehensive basis will effect in raising the standards of life and happiness for the rural community with a corresponding beneficial reaction on the health of the people and the district generally.

OLIVER H. BLACKLAY, M.D., F.R.C.S., Edin.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.



## SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT

To the Chairman and Members of the Nantwich Rural District Council,  
Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my eleventh Annual Report for the year ending the 31st December, 1945.

### Inspections

Public Health Act, 1936.	...	...	1,044
Milk & Dairies Order, 1926.	...	...	267
Factories Act, 1937.	...	...	17
Housing Act, 1936.	...	...	319
Food & Drugs Act, 1938.	...	...	49
Infectious Disease.	...	...	132

### Infectious Disease

The following cases of Infectious Diseases were notified and appropriate action taken :-

Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	81
Diphtheria				1
Whooping Cough				55
Measles				123
Pneumonia				14
Erysipelas				8
Puerperal Pyrexia				3

### Refuse Accommodation

Ash Pits have been abolished and dust bins provided in all the parishes where the scavenging scheme operates, but the position with respect to replacement of bins has become increasingly difficult.

Prior to the introduction of scavenging to any area a survey is made of both closet and refuse accommodation and steps taken for the provision of dustbins and the conversion of privy closets to pails.

### Public Cleansing

At the beginning of the year the following parishes were scavenged by direct labour, :- Willaston, Wistaston, Shavington, Weston, Hough, Chorlton, Basford, Rope, Wybunbury, Stapeley, Woolstanwood, Haslington and Crewe Green. The parishes of Audlem, Worleston, Stoke and Wardle being scavenged by contract.

During the year the Council have had under consideration a Post-War Cleansing Scheme for the whole of the Rural District, to be operated by motor transport. A portion of this scheme was implemented during the year 1945 by the introduction of a second refuse collection vehicle adaptable also for the cleansing of pail closets, with the result that the parish of Audlem which had been scavenged by contract was put under direct labour by motor transport with an extension of the cleansing scheme to the parishes of Hatherton, Hankelow, Buerton, Bridgemere, Lea and Walgherton. A third refuse collection vehicle has been acquired

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and will be put into operation on the 1st April, 1946, to eliminate one horse and cart to cover the parishes of Rope, Weston, Hough, Basford, Chorlton, Shavington and Wybunbury, with an extension to the scheme to include the parishes of Checkley, Blakenhall and Barthomley. Arrangements are being made to dispense with the two remaining horses and carts operating in the parishes of Willaston, Wistaston and Woolstanwood.

The only contracts at present in operation apply to Stoke, Wardle and Worleston, and as the Council has adopted the scheme for the whole of the district to come into operation as soon as circumstances permit, these will be eliminated as the scheme develops.

The introduction of motor transport has made it possible to cut out a lot of sporadic tipping made necessary where horse drawn transport was involved with the result that a wider choice of tips has been made available thus relieving difficulties of disposal of house refuse and rendering control more efficient. On the other hand the introduction of motor transport for nightsoil collection has precluded the disposal of nightsoil direct on to the land and to overcome this problem a system of lagooning has been introduced at the Wistaston and Haslington Sewage Works and on sites provided by market gardeners where the nightsoil is deposited into pits filled with straw for recovery as manure for the land. Whilst this method of disposal is only in its experimental stage as far as this area is concerned experience shows that disposal on these lines can be carried out advantageously and without causing a danger to public health.

The need for the introduction of a public cleansing service to the truly rural parts of this district have been apparent for many years but had been continually postponed, prior to the "pooling" of the rates, on the grounds of expense. Now that this obstacle has been overcome it is hoped that the introduction of the comprehensive scheme for the whole of the district will not be unduly prolonged.

#### Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919

During the year the Council continued to act as agents for the Cheshire County Council under the above Act with respect to non-agricultural premises in this area.

During the year seventeen premises under annual contracts were serviced at a value of £126.0s.0d., per annum, and infestations at eight other premises were cleared under agreement amounting to £9.0s.0d.

The treatment has been carried out on the lines recommended by the Ministry of Food and highly successful results have been achieved. The annual contracts entered into referred to premises which are highly susceptible to re-infestation.

The operations by this Council have been carried out on an economic basis the receipts from contracts and agreements meeting the expenditure involved by this Council. The scheme, which is operated by a part-time Rat Catcher who is a full time employee of the Council, is working smoothly and efficiently.

#### Canal Boats

Several visits have been made to the Canals but no boats were seen. No applications were received for registration of any boats.

#### Housing

It is evident that there is a considerable amount of arrears of maintenance and repair work to be dealt with as soon as labour and materials are available. In consequence of disrepair there will no doubt be many houses to be treated for demolition which prior to the





war would have been considered as border-line cases and dealt with primarily for reconstruction on modern lines of design and layout under the Housing (Rural Workers) Acts. These Acts were then being increasingly taken advantage of in this area, and unless some similar facilities are made available again it is certain that a greater number of houses will have to be scheduled for demolition than otherwise would have been the case.

It is appreciated that so far as long-term policy from an economical point of view is concerned, concentration on the erection of additional new houses is advisable, but in view of rapid deterioration through disrepair some scheme for maintenance of existing properties is essential to safeguard many properties against the threat of demolition and to extend their period of usefulness until general housing requirements have been met.

Owners at the moment excuse their neglect to maintain houses, on grounds of inability to get work done, but it is evident that cost of work has a great influence on the position. The increasing costs of repair and maintenance on the one hand and the control of rents by the Rent and Mortgage Restriction Acts on the other, are no doubt providing little incentive to owners of property to carry out works of this nature irrespective of the disadvantages of procrastination.

Action for repair during the year has been confined to the provisions of the Public Health Act, 1936, preliminary Notices were served in 70 cases, these being followed by the service of 37 Statutory Notices. Considerable delay has been experienced in getting work carried out. Applications were successfully made to the Justices for Nuisance Orders in five cases, two separate owners being involved.

### Milk Supply

There were 1,396 registered producers of milk in the area at the end of the year. Of these, 41 are "Tuberculin Tested," and 690 "Accredited." Eight Notices for repairs and alterations to shippens and dairies were served.

Licences were granted under the Milk (Special Designations) Orders as follows :-

"Pasteurised" (Holder Process)	...	...	1
"Pasteurised" (H.T.S.T. Process)	...	...	1
"Tuberculin Tested" (Pasteurised)	...	...	1
"Tuberculin Tested" (Bottler's Licence)	...	...	3
"Accredited" (Bottler's Licence)	...	...	1
"Pasteurised" (Supplementary)	...	...	1

Early in the year the Ministry of Food arranged with the County Council for samples of milk to be taken from premises holding licences for Heat Treatment issued by the Ministry of Food. Two Dairies were involved with respect to which this Council had issued licences for the production of Pasteurised Milk.

It was agreed that the County Council should be responsible for taking the samples concerned to avoid duplication, and that copies of the results with respect to each premises should be forwarded to this Council.

Results were received from the County Council with respect to 35 samples, all of which complied with the prescribed conditions.

In addition the following samples were taken by this Council in connection with these licences with the following results :-

10 "Pasteurised"	...	...	...	10 complied
10 "Tuberculin Tested" (pasteurised)	...	...	...	10 complied
12 "Tuberculin Tested"	...	...	...	6 complied
				6 failed





In the control of designated milk, officials of the Council have worked in close co-operation with the Officers of the National Milk Testing Advisory Scheme and those of the Public Health Department of the Cheshire County Council, with excellent results!

There were 172 dairymen retailing milk in the area, and out of 69 samples taken and submitted to the sediment test, 55 were found to be clean, 12 slightly contaminated and 2 dirty.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938

There have been no slaughterhouses operating in this area during the year. Licences were issued with respect to 27 slaughterhouses.

Inspections of food were made at warehouses and shops, and approximately 390lbs. of food, which was chiefly tinned goods, were condemned.

Factories Act, 1937

Two Notices were served under Section 7, and were complied with.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN. S. TOWNLEY.

Chief Sanitary Inspector,  
and  
Cleansing Superintendent.

